

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
May 17, 2012

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Mao; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; State Representative, Terrie Wood; RTM Moderator, Karen Armour; Chairman of RTM TGS&A Committee, Sarah Seeley and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Hagerty-Ross stated that the Board of Education is currently in the process of hiring to fill administrative vacancies. Also, Amy Bell will be leaving the Board to begin a new position as the director of the Darien Community Association. The Board will appoint an interim replacement to serve until the November elections.

Ms. Hagerty-Ross noted that the BOE Central Offices/Mather Community Center Building Committee will present the building plans for 35 Leroy Ave. to the BOE on May 22, 2012. The BOE must vote to approve the plans in order to apply for available Grant funding.

RTM MODERATOR

Ms. Armour indicated that the three gifts to the Town: enhancement of the field at Cherry Lawn by Little League, a shooting range at the Police Department by the Darien Foundation and an estate gift to the Senior Center were all accepted at the May 14, 2012 RTM meeting.

The RTM will address the bag ordinance at its meeting on September 24, 2012. The group discussed issues related to bags, landfills and recycling. Ms. Armour mentioned that the RTM's Public Works Committee recently toured the facility in Bridgeport where Darien's trash is sent to be burned and used to generate green energy. Ms. Stevenson announced that single stream recycling is coming online. The Public Works Dept. will promote the new efficient recycling by posting flyers and putting new signage at the Town dump.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Terrie Wood began a discussion on the recently passed Education Reform Bill including: teacher evaluations, the Scientific Research Based Intervention (SRBI) program and funding for Charter Schools.

The Budget Deficit Bill passed, with the GAAP accounting principles removed and a bill to allow liquor sales on Sundays in CT also passed.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Ms. Mao was pleased that the RTM voted on May 14, 2012 to pass the budget. The many open budget meetings that were held over the last few months alleviated most questions about the budget. Additionally, Mr. Bruce Orr, Chairman of the RTM's Finance and Budget Committee, gave an overview of the budget at the RTM meeting prior to the vote.

FIRST SELECTMAN

Ms. Stevenson recently toured the new sports facility opening up in Stamford called Chelsea Piers, addressed the Darien Senior Men's Club and met with Dr. Falcone and Betsy Hagerty-Ross to discuss opportunities for shared services between the Town and the Board of Education.

The First Selectman also met with members of the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the installation of sidewalks on Hoyt Street. Two estimates were provided by the DOT; one for sidewalk installation and the other for widening the shoulders on Hoyt Street. Bob Steeger, Director of Public Works, will relay this information to the public at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting scheduled for Monday, May 21, 2012.

The Darien Boat Club is looking to expand to accommodate 100 more boats. These plans would affect the beach and parking at Pear Tree Point and have caused some concern among neighbors.

Finally, Ms. Stevenson reported that she and Jeremy Ginsberg, Director of Planning & Zoning, have been contacted daily by anxious neighbors about issues regarding the Allen O'Neill project. She is trying to facilitate better communication between the neighbors, the Housing Authority and the builders.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary